

Date of most recent action: July 27, 2021

**Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, with Annexes I-IV**

Done: Madrid; October 4, 1991

Opened for Signature: Madrid, October 4, 1991; and thereafter at Washington until October 3, 1992

Entry into force: January 14, 1998

The Protocol entered into force on the thirtieth date following the date of deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by all States which were Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties at the date on which this Protocol was adopted (Article 23)

**Legend:** (no mark) = ratification; **a** = accession; **c** = acceptance; **d** = succession; **p** = approval; **w** = withdrawal or equivalent action

Participant	Signature	Consent to be bound		EIF Date	Notes
Argentina	October 4, 1991	October 28, 1993		January 14, 1998	<sup>1</sup>
Australia	October 4, 1991	April 6, 1994		January 14, 1998	
Austria	October 4, 1991	July 27, 2021		August 26, 2021	<sup>2</sup>
Belarus		July 16, 2008	<b>a</b>	August 15, 2008	
Belgium	October 4, 1991	April 26, 1996		January 14, 1998	
Brazil	October 4, 1991	August 15, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Bulgaria		April 21, 1998	<b>a</b>	May 21, 1998	
Canada	October 4, 1991	November 13, 2003		December 13, 2003	
Chile	October 4, 1991	January 11, 1995		January 14, 1998	
China	October 4, 1991	August 2, 1994		January 14, 1998	
Colombia	October 4, 1991	February 13, 2020	<b>p</b>	March 14, 2020	
Czech Republic	January 1, 1993	August 25, 2004		September 24, 2004	<sup>3</sup>
Denmark	July 2, 1992				
Ecuador	October 4, 1991	January 4, 1993		January 14, 1998	
Finland	October 4, 1991	November 1, 1996	<b>c</b>	January 14, 1998	
France	October 4, 1991	February 5, 1993	<b>p</b>	January 14, 1998	
Germany	October 4, 1991	November 25, 1994		January 14, 1998	
Greece	October 4, 1991	May 23, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Hungary	October 4, 1991				
India	July 2, 1992	April 26, 1996		January 14, 1998	
Italy	October 4, 1991	March 31, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Japan	September 29, 1992	December 15, 1997	<b>c</b>	January 14, 1998	
Korea (DPRK)	October 4, 1991				
Korea (ROK)	July 2, 1992	January 2, 1996		January 14, 1998	
Malaysia		August 15, 2016	<b>a</b>	September 14, 2016	

Participant	Signature	Consent to be bound		EIF Date	Notes
Monaco		July 1, 2009	a	July 31, 2009	
Netherlands	October 4, 1991	April 14, 1994	c	January 14, 1998	4
New Zealand	October 4, 1991	December 22, 1994		January 14, 1998	
Norway	October 4, 1991	June 16, 1993		January 14, 1998	
Pakistan		March 1, 2012	a	March 31, 2012	
Peru	October 4, 1991	March 8, 1993		January 14, 1998	
Poland	October 4, 1991	November 1, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Portugal		September 10, 2014	a	October 10, 2014	
Romania	October 4, 1991	February 3, 2003		March 5, 2003	
Russian Federation	October 4, 1991	August 6, 1997		January 14, 1998	
Slovak Republic	January 1, 1993				5
South Africa	October 4, 1991	August 3, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Spain	October 4, 1991	July 1, 1992		January 14, 1998	
Sweden	October 4, 1991	March 30, 1994		January 14, 1998	
Switzerland	October 4, 1991	May 2, 2017		June 1, 2017	6
Turkiye		September 27, 2017	a	October 27, 2017	
Ukraine		May 25, 2001	a	June 24, 2001	
United Kingdom	October 4, 1991	April 25, 1995		January 14, 1998	7
United States	October 4, 1991	April 17, 1997		January 14, 1998	
Uruguay	October 4, 1991	January 11, 1995		January 14, 1998	
Venezuela		August 1, 2014	a	August 31, 2014	

<sup>1</sup> Accompanied by declaration, with informal translation provided by the Embassy of Argentina, which reads as follows: “The Argentine Republic declares that in as much as the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on the Protection of the Environment is a Complementary Agreement of the Antarctic Treaty and that its Article 4 fully respects what has been stated in Article IV, Subsection 1, Paragraph A) of said Treaty, none of its stipulations should be interpreted or be applied as affecting its rights, based on legal titles, acts of possession, contiguity and geological continuity in the region South of parallel 60, in which it has proclaimed and maintained its sovereignty.”

<sup>2</sup> Included in the instrument of ratification of the Protocol by Austria is a declaration, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol, that Austria chooses the International Court of Justice for the settlement of disputes.

<sup>3</sup> The Czech & Slovak Federal Republic signed the Protocol on October 2, 1992 and accepted the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the Arbitral Tribunal for the settlement of disputes in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, the Czech & Slovak Federal Republic ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. January 1, 1993 is the effective date of succession by the Czech Republic in respect of signature of the Protocol by the Czech & Slovak Federal Republic.

The instrument of ratification of the Protocol deposited by the Czech Republic was accompanied by a declaration, with informal translation provided by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, which reads as follows: “The Czech Republic accepts the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and of the Arbitral Tribunal under Article 19, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, done at Madrid on October 4, 1991.”

<sup>4</sup> Acceptance is for the Kingdom in Europe. At the time of its acceptance, the Kingdom of the Netherlands stated that it chooses both means for the settlement of disputes mentioned in Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol, i.e. the International Court of Justice and the Arbitral Tribunal.

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On October 27, 2004, the Kingdom of the Netherlands deposited an instrument, dated October 15, 2004, declaring that the Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the Protocol for the Netherlands Antilles with a statement confirming that it chooses both means for the settlement of disputes mentioned in Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington transmitted to the Department of State a diplomatic note, dated October 6, 2010, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands currently consists of three parts: the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The Netherlands Antilles consists of the islands of Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

“With effect from 10 October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. From that date onwards, the Kingdom will consist of four parts: the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. Curaçao and Sint Maarten will enjoy internal self-government within the Kingdom, as Aruba and, up to 10 October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles do.

“These changes constitute a modification of the internal constitutional relations within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will accordingly remain the subject of international law with which agreements are concluded. The modification of the structure of the Kingdom will therefore not affect the validity of the international agreements ratified by the Kingdom for the Netherlands Antilles; these agreements will continue to apply to Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

“The other islands that have until now formed part of the Netherlands Antilles – Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba – will become part of the Netherlands, thus constituting ‘the Caribbean part of the Netherlands’. The agreements that now apply to the Netherlands Antilles will also continue to apply to these islands; however, the Government of the Netherlands will now be responsible for implementing these agreements.”

<sup>5</sup> The Czech & Slovak Federal Republic signed the Protocol on October 2, 1992 and accepted the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the Arbitral Tribunal for the settlement of disputes in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, the Czech & Slovak Federal Republic ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. January 1, 1993 is the effective date of succession by the Slovak Republic in respect of signature of the Protocol by the Czech & Slovak Federal Republic.

<sup>6</sup> Included in the instrument of ratification of the Protocol by Switzerland is a declaration, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Protocol, that Switzerland chooses the International Court of Justice for the settlement of disputes.

<sup>7</sup> Ratification is on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Antarctic Territory, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena and Dependencies, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands.